

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 ICA-20 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 AF-10
ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 OES-07 OIC-02
/118 W

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R 301848Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2300

UNCLAS PARIS 17077

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, TPHY, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO/IGCP BOARD MEMBERS

REF: LI/SANDVED TELECON MAY 26

1. AS PER INSTRUCTIONS, USDEL (SCIATT SANDVED) REFERRED IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON MAY 24 TO U.S. POSITION REGARDING THE SELECTION MECHANISM FOR IGCP BOARD MEMBERS (ENTIRE STATEMENT BEING POUCHED TO STATE DEPARTMENT). ADG KADDOURA, IN HIS REPLY, STATED THAT A DECISION ON THE FUTURE STRUCTURE AND MECHANISM IS FOR THE 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE TO MAKE, THUS LEAVING ALL OPTIONS OPEN. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT KADDOURA WAS READING FROM A STATEMENT PREPARED BY HIS STAFF THAT WAS ENTIRELY TOO DETAILED, AND PART OF WHAT HE SAID WAS IMPROVISED.

2. USDEL HAS NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH KADDOURA PRIVATELY SINCE THE MEETING, BUT HAS DISCUSSED IT WITH DADG BATISSE AND WITH VON BRAUN. BATISSE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS
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HAVE BACKED DOWN FROM THEIR STRONG STAND FAVORING A CHANGE, AT LEAST IN PRIVATE, AND NOW SEEM TO BE CONTENT WITH A STATUS QUO. VON BRAUN INDICATED THAT RESPONSES ARE RUNNING SLIGHTLY IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE.

3. SCIATT SIZES THE SITUATION UP AS FOLLOWS ON THE

BASIS OF THESE INTERACTIONS: A. IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A MAJORITY AT THE 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR CHANGING THE SELECTION PROCESS, UNLESS UNCOMMITTED DELEGATIONS ARE SUBJECTED TO HEAVY LOBBYING. B. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE CHANGE WILL PRESCRIBE THAT UNESCO/IUGS SELECT THE MEMBERS ON THE BASIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE MEMBER STATES' NATIONAL COMMISSIONS. (THIS, IN SOME COUNTRIES, EQUALS RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY GOVERNMENTS; IN OTHERS, IT WOULD BE DECIDED ENTIRELY BY SCIENTISTS.) AT ANY RATE, NO MATTER WHAT THE DECISION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, THE NEW BOARD WILL HAVE TO BE COMPOSED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER THE CONFERENCE ENDS. THUS, TIME WILL BE AT A PREMIUM.

4. USIGCP COMMITTEE SHOULD AT THE VERY LEAST IDENTIFY PROPOSED U.S. MEMBER AND TRANSMIT THIS RECOMMENDATION TO UNESCO SECRETARIAT. IF COMMITTEE WISHES TO PROPOSE SEVERAL, OR A SLATE, OF INDIVIDUALS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, VON BRAUN WILL NOT OBJECT TO RECEIVING SUCH A LIST, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOTHING THAT HE OR ANYONE ELSE CAN DO UNTIL THE GENERAL CONFERENCE PRONOUNCES ITS VERDICT. WITH THAT CAVEAT, IT IS SCIATT'S IMPRESSION THAT VON BRAUN WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY SUGGESTIONS.

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